

Annex 5a: E-mail Responses to Budget Consultation 2019/20

Message received via Cllr Carl Cuss (Deputy Leader, Rhymney) / Cllr J Bevan (Rhymney)

Date: 20/11/2018

Subject: Proposals- closing meals on wheels service

Today I have seen the proposals regarding the MTFP and would like to express my concerns as a resident of CCBC.

I am deeply saddened by the proposals to cease the meals on wheels service I personally think that the service is a valued service used by some of the most vulnerable people that live in our communities and a proposal to cut this service would be detrimental to the most vulnerable residents who rely on the fantastic service meals on wheels provide.

I think that without the service the vulnerable would go hungry, I would imagine the customers that use the service are without family, or family that have work commitments.

I worry that without this vital service our most vulnerable residents would be affected drastically.

Some of the elderly are most often alone and sometimes the only people they see are the staff that deliver the meals they are like the 4th emergency service.

I would also like to express my concerns to the consultation times I for one work full time and my areas consultation finishes at 1pm.

I wonder how the meals on wheels clients are being consulted? If I find the consultation process challenging I wonder how they are having their say? Can you find out?

I hope that one day if any member of my family, myself or yourself ever found yourself in these circumstances were 1 meal and a 5 minute chat to a familiar face was still available, as I feel this service is vital and without the 1 meal there will be a lot of people suffering. People are entitled to the human right to food and if you are incapable of helping yourself you are entitled to a little help from the government I believe if you take this human right away from the vulnerable this could potentially result in death.

I look forward to your reply

Message received via Cllr Carl Cuss (Deputy Leader, Rhymney)

Date: 20/11/2018

Recently heard about the proposals regarding cut back on meal on wheels... I'm not sure if your aware but who lives next door to me would most definitely suffer and possibly lead to life threatening effects due to this cut back And along with lots of elderly and vulnerable people around the community I would like to express my concerns as this lady has workred her entire life and now relise on the system for help

This lady has been a victim of robbery in her own home she cannot do a lot for herself and cooking being top of the list I feel with the cut backs she along with lots of others will suffer

Id like you to escalate my concerns and to be taken seriously as I genuinely feel this lady would not last long without the help she had off meals on wheels they not only bring food for her but they are a comfort and listen to her while they heat her food .

Meals in wheels are like the 4th emergency services and theyr service to the misfortuneate are a god send

Yeah hope this is taken seriously

Message received via Cllr Carol Andrews (Bargoed)

Sent: 20 November 2018

Subject: Closure of meals direct

Hi Carole

Just wanted to ask is there anything that can be done to stop them closing meals direct. I would like to know if all clients who receive meals will be notified of the proposal to allow them a voice due to the fact they don't all have access to social media. How will these people cope without this service.

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Hi Carole

Thanks for getting back to me. How will the council ensure people like my mother in law who's housebound or for clients with dementia etc get to have a say in the proposal. They are unable to attend these sessions or go on line. Will they be contacted by the council or the next of kin to ask for their view and how will this be done. Will letters be sent out.

Message received via Cllr D T Davies

Sent: 28 November 2018

Subject: Caerphilly consultation/cuts

This consultation with the public is a crock as all they have done is produce a list of things they are going to cut rather than a list of all the expenditure they have.

For example: The best way to keep the Aberbargoed waste tip open is to publish all the council expenditure and then allow the public to go through it all and find the real savings. The consultation says how much they are going to save by closing the tip but the staff aren't being sacked, they are just moving them and increasing the numbers of staff at other waste sites. This can't save much money at all. None of that is clear from the consultation documents.

As a public body, the accounts should be open to inspection by the people that fund it. Open government. Get on to other councillors and get the council to publish all their expenditure. Show the public everything that their money is being spent on and allow them to show you where the wastage really is.

I imagine the county has more than a few retired accountants and tax inspectors that would happily sit at home on their computers and go through everything, free of charge and find some real savings.

Message received via Cllr David Poole (Leader)

Date: 05/12/2018

Subject: Caerphilly Town & area road structure.

Dear Council Leader,

Today I had the displeasure of driving around Caerphilly and in road after road there were blocked drains some due to leaf and litter derby and others just blocked. The roads are uneven with sunken drains, bad repairs, new potholes and sunken road surfaces. With the £3,000,000 overspend on Pwl Ly Pant roundabout project and the proposed cuts on highways for 2019/2020 things can only get worse, driving around Caerphilly is worse than driving around most third world countries and will deteriorate to an unsustainable level in the near future.

All this under your leadership and you do not know how to correct matters, matters will get to a point of no return very soon, I cannot start to think how things are in the rest of the Borough.

Councillor numbers need to be reduced by 10%

High paid officers need to be reduced by 5%

Pensions to officers should be cut by 50%

Freeze all pay rises for officers and councillors should be frozen for 3 years

Mayors position should be culled together with costs etc

Front line personnel should be kept

This would save a few million pounds (I believe Powys are proposing to go down this road and save over a million pounds).

I would be interested in your thoughts regarding these suggestions.

Regards

Sent: 18 December 2018 17:41
To: Communications Unit
Subject: Budget Consultation

To whomever it may concern,

Although I am no longer a resident of Caerphilly borough, I have just found out about the budget cuts proposal and wanted to voice my opinions.

My elderly parents live in Pontllanfraith and are regular users of the 'Meals on Wheels' service. Being 86 and nearly 90 years old, they really rely on this. They have remained independent in every other way and need no other support but I feel that without this service, things could be very different for them. Like them, many elderly residents benefit hugely from this service and will find life more difficult without the daily delivery of a hot meal.

I hope these views can be added to the other consultation responses.

Many thanks

Sent: 08 January 2019
To: Communications Unit
Subject: Budgets Cuts

Hi

These are my views.

- 1) why is it that you have council vehicles picking work colleges up?
- 2) why are they aloud to use them for personal use back & for Work
- 3) when they take the Vehicles home they are using the tools in the vehicles
- 4) Quick fix repairs cost more in the long run
- 5) if your not going to maintain overgrowth in Parks etc remove it completely

Regards

Sent: 09 January 2019
To: Communications Unit
Subject: Recycling unit at Penallta

I strongly object to the proposed closure of this facility. It is well used and needed and if closed would increase pressure on the facility at Caerphilly. At this time when there is more litter on our streets and fly tipping, there should be better provision for the disposal of waste, not less!

Sent: 09 January 2019
To: Communications Unit
Subject: Cuts council budget

I think the council should settle and stop paying for executives that they on long term disputes with and stop playing out exorbitant amount of money that could be spend on services that they want to cut

09 January 2019

To: Communications Unit

Subject: Prescription charges

The Welsh government gives free prescriptions to everybody. There are many who can afford these. Would it not be better to scrap this for people earning over 30k for example.

Doing this would put thousands back in the pot to be shared around between the council's.

Council tax reductions for single people. Some of these people earn more on their own than a whole working family. Change this rule so if single and earning 50k plus you do not get reduced council tax bills. Or change the percentage it is lowered by.

Bins: do people really need refuse collection so regularly? We are a family of 3 and never get close to filling our bins. Have less collections and encourage more people to use recycling centres. Alternatively charge for garden waste, or stop this service.

Sent: 09 January 2019
To: Communications Unit
Subject: Penallta civic

Dear all,

Please can you explain why a tip, that around Christmas had the cars queuing to the main road is in your plans to close!!!

Sent: 10 January 2019
To: Communications Unit
Subject: Ccbc cutbacks

I am a resident of Bargoed and been so for over 30 years... I have seen a gradual deterioration over this time of the Services provided by Yourselves... I totally disagree with the Proposal to close Recycling facilities - there is already a huge amount of illegal fly tipping in the District, and especially so on our Mountains... I have been a volunteer Litter Picker with 'Keeping Bargoed Tidy' and have seen first hand how dangerous it is for the animals grazing on the Mountain, and how unsightly it is aesthetically... Closing Recycling Centres will make these problems far worse. I understand you have to make cutbacks, but the Council would not be in this position if the monies you are entrusted with was put to better purpose. It is scandalous that the fiasco with the top Managers/CEO's wage saga has been allowed to drag on for this long... In addition, why are these Salaries so high in the first place? It cannot be acceptable that local Council Officials receive more than the Prime Ministers salary!! A fair and reasonable pay structure should be made for the top 5% and by doing this you will save a huge amount of money... It isn't fair that the Public should suffer for the Councils ineptitude and greed... This is not aimed at the majority of Council workers, I am referring to the ones who have not done their duty in serving the Community they are supposed to represent, and clearly, they are not fit for purpose... I hope you will take my words into consideration and look forward to your Response.

Sent: 11 January 2019 09:47

To: Communications Unit

Subject: Councils cuts

I am writing to give my say in the matter of your budget funding u say you got to put up the poll tax again to help with the budget well can I ask u something why is it that the people always suffer when it comes to short falls with in the councils budget well it's about time you sorted within in the council as I no for a fact that u got formen running around in new vans checking up on the workers and that's all the do and get £30,000 a year do you think that is right and the big cheeses at the top of the chain gets big money sorry you have got your priorities wrong and it needs to be sorted out it's the same as the MP's in the assembly we put them in they get big wages and then do nothing for the people

Sent: 10 January 2019

To: Communications Unit

Subject: Comments regarding the most recent budget cut implications

Dear Sir/Madam

Very Interesting report into the proposed budget implications which will have a massive negative affect on our services, however there is still no mention of on the ongoing scandal of the ex-Chief Executive still being paid and on gardening leave since 2013. I have read recently this is likely to cost in excess of £4 Million pound to finally resolve this issue? This appalling situation cannot surely be allowed to run and run, bleeding our hard earned money into a ludicrous situation.

Where on earth does this amount come from and how are you (CCC) going to explain this disastrous situation to the Counties rate payers and when will it in fact be resolved?

Thought/comments would be appreciated when we are all being asked to tighten our financial belts and when it looks highly like we will be paying a record council tax this financial year?

Your sincerely

From:
Sent: 12 January 2019
To: Communications Unit
Subject:

Simply out of touch with real world !!